

Melbourne Community Church (MCC)

Sunday Service — December 11, 2022

Sermon Notes

Last week: “*The Curious Case of CURSING THE FIG TREE*”, [Matthew 21:18-22](#), by Brandon Harris, Teaching Pastor.

Old Testament Reading: [Micah 7:1-7](#);

New Testament Reading: [John 15:1-8](#)

- The Problem: Consternation at Jesus’ Cursing the Tree
- The Point: A Powerful Object Lesson
- The Principle: Faithless, Fruitless, Futureless

‘Beware of Fig-Leaf Religiosity’

The Temple in Jerusalem	The Fig Tree on the Way
• Jesus Approached Jerusalem Expectantly	• Jesus Approached the Fig Tree Expectantly
• Jesus Received with Palms and Praise Pointing to Faith	• Jesus Perceived Leaves Pointing to Fruit
• Jesus Inspected the Temple but Found it Blameworthy	• Jesus Inspected the Tree but Found it Bear
• Jesus Condemned the Leaders for their Faithlessness	• Jesus Cursed the Fig Tree for its Fruitlessness

This week: “*License and Ordination, Please*”, [Matthew 21:23-46](#), by Brandon Harris, Teaching Pastor.

Old Testament Reading: [Isaiah 5:1-7](#);

New Testament Reading: [John 5:31-46](#)

Pattern

[Hostile question → counterquestion → admission → final rejoinder]

Confrontation: Jesus’ Credentials ([Matthew 21:23-27](#))

What is the meaning of the term s’*mikhah*? (see [Semikhah](#))

What might have been two reasons why the Chief Priest and Elders would be asking Jesus by whose authority he speaks and teaches?

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There were two possible answers to question Jesus asks of the Chief Priest and Elders. Their reasoning (and answer) reveals whom they feared. Who did they fear: God or the people?

Parable of the Two Sons ([Matthew 21:28-32](#))

- 1) What did the father command his sons to do?
- 2) What did the first son say, but then do?
- 3) What did the second son say, but then do?

In this parable, who does each person represent,

- The father?
- The first son?
- The second son?

Parable of the Wicked Tenants ([Matthew 21:33-46](#))

Might the leaders and the people recognize the similarities between this parable and the words recorded in [Isaiah 5:1-7](#)?

In this parable, who do each represent:

- The Landowner?
- The Vineyard?
- The Tenants?
- The Servants?
- The Son?

Jesus reminds them of more scripture they should know. He quotes [Psalm 118:22-23](#) to put a final emphasis on the “tenants” are going to do to “the Son”.

What does the Chief Priests and the Pharisees seek to do after hearing the parables?

Who did they fear at that time that restrained them from taking action?

Additional Notes:

Internet Resources: [The Bible Project: Matthew 14-28; Matthew Overview Poster](#)

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